

EXPLORE “WOMEN IN WINE” DURING MARCH AT THE CO-OP

Ten featured wine selections celebrate women winemakers & proprietors

In a 2023 poll by Statista, 43.2% of women chose wine as their preferred alcoholic beverage. This is nearly double the men’s reported percentage of 22.1. The facts tell us that women prefer, and purchase, more wine than their male counterparts. Despite this, 82% of winemakers (globally) are male. Senior leadership positions in this historically male-dominated industry also grow slowly. This picture is changing - slowly. Learn more in this SevenFiftyDaily piece here: <https://tinyurl.com/t9kfmw8>.

Here in our little corner of northeast Iowa, the Co-op’s committed to being part of this change. This March, during Women’s History Month, we celebrate all women in the food and beverage industry - and that includes our “Women in Wine” selections. Shoppers visiting Aisle 1 are invited to watch for signage indicating wine selections created by women winemakers and companies owned and/or steered by women.

WOMEN IN WINE



From the French Languedoc comes Domaine Clavel’s “Le Mas.” This family-owned and operated business boasts Estelle Clavel, winemaker, and spouse Pierre, vineyard. Their sons, Antoine and Martin, plan to join Domaine Clavel as well. From Robert at Best Case Wines of Iowa City: “The Clavels are lovely people, and good friends. Plus - their wines are delicious.”



“Some years ago, winegrower Christelle Coulange improved the management of her family’s vineyards and started bottling under her family name,” notes Robert. “The Domaine Coulange Cotes du Rhone ‘Rochelette’ is 80% Syrah, 20% Grenache. This is a hardy wine with the tannic structure to stand up to full-flavored meals.”



“Sixth-generation winemaker Laurence Deche of southwestern France now holds the family reins,” says Robert. “The Domaine de Millet Columbard/Ugni Blanc comes from two grapes that may not be familiar to most American wine drinkers, but the flavor profile is about as friendly and easygoing as you can imagine. Tart like Sauvignon, but juicier and a bit fuller-bodied, this may be the best-value white in our entire profile.”





Jill Russell, head winemaker, Cambria Estate Winery from Santa Maria, California
 “My current role at Cambria keeps me on my toes...we are always making improvements in the cellar and adding new technologies to help make our high quality single vineyard chardonnay and pinot noirs,” said Russell in this November, 2022 square mile piece: <https://squaremile.com/investment/wine/jill-russell-cambria-estate-winery-winemaker/>. Barbara Banke is chairman and proprietor of Jackson Family Wines, the company she co-founded with her late husband, wine icon Jess Jackson. Her three children with Jess (Katherine, Julia and Christopher) are involved with the business.



notes of citrus and baked apples.

The flagship Julia's Vineyard Pinot Noir invites with ripe blueberry and blackberry flavors, followed by notes of cherry, cranberry and pomegranate. Cambriawines.com recommends enjoying it with “mushroom pizza, roast chicken, grilled salmon and a mild cheese platter.”



Imagery Wines winemaker Jamie Benziger is a multiple award-winner, including Wine Enthusiast's 40 under 40 Tastemakers and the international 2019 Best Woman Winemaker. Benziger continues to carry on the legacy of her family winery. Read more in a tasting panel feature here: <https://www.tastingpanelmag.com/palate-meets-palette/>



Imagery's Cabernet Sauvignon is soft and smooth, with well-integrated oak. Flavors of rich, dark fruit are met with earthy tones and subtle, complimentary spice.

Imagery's Sauvignon Blanc - from The Tasting Panel, California:

“Honeyed pears and sweet lime perfume the glass with subtle charm.” Expect flavors of tangerine, vanilla cream and the addition of dry Muscat. Crisp and clean.

WOMEN IN WINE



Nicole Hitchcock is the head winemaker at J Vineyards & Winery of Sonoma County, California. She describes her wine style as unapologetically Californian, stating that “Abundant sunshine sets us apart from other sparkling wine regions throughout the world.” Hitchcock is a 2022 Winemaker of the Year: <https://www.winemag.com/2022/10/20/nicole-hitchcock-wine-star-2022-winemaker-of-the-year/>

J Vineyards Multi-Appellation Pinot Noir is silky, smooth and fruit-forward. Expect earthy and spicy

hints of forest floor, lavender, freshly-ground coffee beans and clove. Rated 89 points by wine.com.

J Vineyards Multi-Appellation Chardonnay - from totalwine.com: “Through careful blending, this chardonnay was crafted to be full-bodied with heavier caramelized notes and nuances of white peach, ripe yellow apple and juicy pear with hints of vanilla and toasted hazelnut.”

